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Mr. Wilde exhibited a remarkable antique brooch, recently found at Rathmore, county of Cavan, and purchased by Mr. West, College-green, by whose permission he brought it under the notice of the Academy. It is of bronze, but was originally plated, and was also beautifully ornamented in front with enamel, portions of which still remain, and show that Irish artists had attained considerable skill in that description of decoration. What adds considerably to the interest of this object is its having four spiral rings, or helices, each of three turns, wound round one side of the circle. One of these spiral rings is encircled within a smaller one.

Mr. Wilde presented a portion of the head and antlers of a fossil elk, and also a good specimen of the head and horn-cores of a goat, the latter found in Dunshaughlin crannoge, several years ago.

The thanks of the Academy were voted to the donor, after which the Academy adjourned.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1859.

JAMES HENTHORN TODD, D. D., President, in the Chair.

ON the recommendation of Council, it was—

RESOLVED—That the sum of Fifty Pounds be placed in the hands of the Council to enable them to purchase antique articles for the Academy Museum.

The REV. DR. REEVES read—

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CRANNOGE OF INISHRUSH, AND ITS ANCIENT
OCCUPANTS.

THAT part of Ulster known in the sixteenth century as *Brian Carragh's Country* consisted of a tract on either side of the Bann, of which Port-glennone may be taken as the centre. The portion on the Antrim side of the river, which consisted of the adjacent part of the parish of Ahoghill, was held, by inheritance, under O'Neill, of Clanaboy; while the Londonderry portion, which consisted of the south-east part of Tamlaght-oerilly parish, was wrested by force of arms from O'Cahan, and held in adverse possession. In Marshal Bagenal's "Description of Ulster," 1586, the territory is thus noticed:—"Brian Caraghe's countrey was a portion of Northe Clandeboy, won from it by a bastard kinde of Scottes, of the septs of Clandonnells, who entered the same, and do yet holde it, being a very stronge piece of lande lienge uppon the North side of the Bande. The name of the nowe Capten thereof is Brian Caraghe,* who

* A very interesting document from the State Paper Office has been printed by Herbert F. Hore, Esq., in the *Ulster Journal of Archæology*, vol. vii. p. 61. It is a letter from Allister McConeill to Captain Piers, dated 10th of December, 1566, in which he says: "als many as we myt drywe and dreafe ower y^e Ban all y^e carycht y^t Brean Karliche hade. . . . , and ane *innysse* [i. e., island, namely, Innisrush] y^t Brean Karliche hade of befair and Onceiles servand tuk y^t, and now we have gotten y^t *innys* agane, and that harchips I behuffit to sla yame to be meit to my arme."

possesse the likewise another pece of a country of Tyron side upon the Band, for which he doth contribute to Onele, and for his landes on the North side to them of Clandeboy; by reason of the fastnes and strengthe of his country, havinge succour and frendes on each side the Band, it is very hard to harme him, which maketh him so obstinate and careles as he never yet wolde appeare before any Deputie, but yeldethe still what relife he can to the Scottes. His force in people is very smale; he standethe onelie upon the strength of his country, which in dede is the fastest grownde of Ireland."* The substance of this statement is transferred by John Dymmok into his "Treatice of Ireland," circ. 1600, who corrupts the chieftain's name to *Bryan Mac Carvugh*.† In his "Particuler of the Rebels Forces," April 28, 1599, we find under Ulster, "Shane mac Bryan Carragh, and his cuntry joynnyng on the Bansyde—50 foot, 10 horse."‡ In Francis Jobson's Maps of Ulster, preserved among the manuscripts of Trinity College, *Bryan Carrogh's Country* is laid down on either side of the Bann, and a little south-east on the Antrim side, somewhere in the parish of Ahoghill, *Temple Brian Carrogh* is also marked.§ With these agree the engraved maps of Baptista Boazio,|| Speed,** Jansson,†† and Blaeu.‡‡ John Norden's map, prefixed to the printed State Papers of Ireland, places Brian Carogh only on the county of Londonderry side, north-west of Forte Tuom, now Toome Bridge.§§ Local tradition circumscribes his territory still more, bounding it on the north by Wolf Island; north-west by Drumlane March; on the east by Tyance Burn; on the south-east by Cut of the Hill, near Bellaghy; and on the south by the Clady River.

This Brian, who bore the common epithet of *Carrach*, or "Scabbed,"||| was an O'Neill, and great-grandson of Domhnall Donn, or "Donnell

* Printed from the original record in the State Paper Office, dated December 20, 1586, by Herbert F. Hore, Esq., in the "Ulster Journal of Archæology," vol. ii., p. 154. The county of Antrim part of this document had previously been printed, with a few verbal inaccuracies, from a copy in Dean Dobbs' collection, by the Rev. John Dubourdieu, in his "Statistical Survey of Antrim," vol. ii., p. 620.

† "Tracts relating to Ireland," vol. ii., p. 23 (Irish Archæological Soc. Publications).

‡ Ibid., p. 29.

§ The second map of Ulster in the Trin. Coll. collection of Irish maps and charts is a large coarsely coloured survey of Ulster, on vellum, by Francis Jobson, dated 1590. The third, which is smaller, and on paper, is also by Jobson, and marks *Brian Carrugh* on both sides of the Bann. Map 4 of Ulster, also by Jobson, on vellum, places *Brian Caroth* entirely on the east side of the river.

|| This rudely executed and coloured map, which is extremely rare, was "graven by Renolde Elstrack," and published in the latter part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and sold "in the Pope's head alley by Mr. Sudbury." It places *Brian Caroch* on the west side, but has his name to the south-east, lower down, near the Fevagh.

** Speed's Theatre; the Province of Ulster, between pp. 145, 146 (1614).

†† "Le Nouvel Atlas ou Theatre du Monde," tom. iv., Irlande, between pp. 41, 42 (1647).

‡‡ Blaeu, "Geographia Hiberniæ," between pp. 27, 28 (1654).

§§ With this agrees the copy of Norden's map of Ulster, on vellum, in the Trin. Coll. collection, where it is No. 1 of Ulster. It is of the date 1609-1611.

||| Carrach was in very common use. Thus, we find an earlier Brian Carrach O'Neill, in the "Annals of the Four Masters" at 1387; an Art Carrach at 1486; a

the Brown," whose father, Brian, was brother of Con, eldest son of Hugh Boy the Second, the ancestor of the noble house of Shane's Castle, now, alas! extinct in the male line. Domhnall Donn became possessed of the district on the Antrim side of the Bann, and founded a sept called the Clann Doimnail Duinn na bana,* "Descendants of Donnell Donn of the Bann." Hence arose among the English the familiar appellation of *Clandonnells*, as employed by Bagenal and Dymmok in the passages above cited. Camden, however, erroneously supposed them to be the same as the Mac Donnells, familiarly called M'Connells; and, speaking of the Earl of Essex's failure in reducing Ulster, he adds, that he "left this country to the O'Neals, and Brian Carragh of the family of the MacConnells, who have since cut one another's throats in their disputes for sovereignty."† The name Clandonnell, no doubt, was often applied to the MacDonnells,‡ especially O'Neill's gallowglasses, but in the present instance it was borrowed from *Donnell Donn O'Neill*.

The epithet, "a bastard kind of Scotts," is, probably, derived from a mistaken notion that Brian Carragh's men were MacDonnells; or it may have reference to Scotch mercenaries employed by the chief of the district, who settled and intermarried therein. In confirmation of this view, there is the local tradition that the Mac Erleans, who abound in the district, were a Scotch clan, whose name was originally Mac Clean,§ and that they were invited over from the west coast of Argyle and planted here by Brian Carrach, where they became his best supporters against O'Cahan.

Brian Carrach flourished in the middle of the sixteenth century,|| and died about 1586. A son of his was slain, according to the *Four Masters*, in 1577. Another son, Shane Boy, who was captain of the district in 1599, is the last of that line noticed in Mac Firbis's *Genealogy of the O'Neills*, but the old family pedigree, copies of which belonging to the families of Shanescastle and Bannvale, have been examined by me, gives another generation in Cormac, son of Shane Boy. Anne, daughter of Brian Carrach, was second wife of Shane O'Neill, of Shanescastle,** son of the Brian O'Neill, whom the Earl of Essex caused to be apprehended near Carrickfergus in 1574.††

Neale Carrach at 1488; a Rory Carrach at 1523, all O'Neills. Mr. Hoare, supposing Carrach to be a surname, in a note on *Brian Carrach* cites a statement about *Alexander Carrach*; but he was a Mac Donnell. His name appears in the family pedigree, and in the "Four Masters," at 1542, 1577. This Alexander Carrach died in 1634. See note to O'Donovan's "Four Masters," 1590 (p. 1895).

* Mac Firbis, *Geneal. MS.* (Library, Royal Irish Academy), p. 121 a.

† *Britannia*, vol. iv., p. 431. (Gibson's translation, ed. Gough, London.)

‡ See *Miscellany of the Celtic Society*, p. 192; *Iar Connacht*, p. 331.

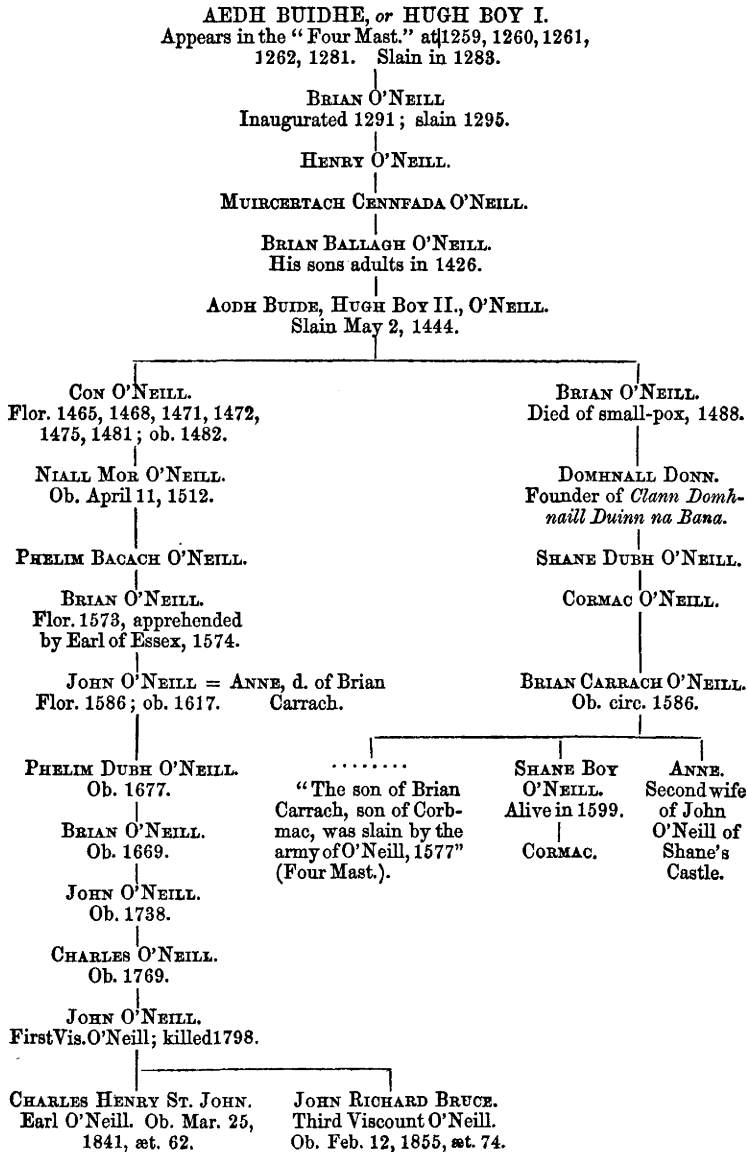
§ That is *Mac Gilla Eoin*. See "Four Masters," at 1523, 1559, 1577.

|| The learned editor of the "Four Masters" makes a slight mistake in identifying Brian Carrach of 1387 (p. 709) with the present individual noticed at 1577 (p. 1692).

** O'Neill Pedigree.

†† Camden, *Annales Elizabethæ*, anno 1573 (p. 246, ed. 1573). Devereux's *Lives and Letters of the Earls of Essex*, vol. i. pp. 19, 34, 37-39, 66, 69, 89, 90. O'Donovan's "Four Masters," 1573 (p. 1664), 1574 (p. 1676).

The following Table, commencing with the founder of the noble house of Clannaboy, shows the collateral descent of the Edenduffcarrick and Bann-side lines.



The place which is traditionally pointed out as the site of Brian's abode is a small island, in the middle of a marshy basin at Inishrush, called the Green Lough.* This spot was really the *Inip* *pui*, "Island of the Wood;" and though it has long since ceased to bear this name *par excellence*, it comes in for a share as part of the townland of Inishrush, as adjacent to the hamlet so called, and as included in the Perpetual Cure of Inishrush. And the reason why this inconsiderable speck gave name to the surrounding district, was its importance in the sixteenth century as the seat of the chieftain's fortress: just as *Inip Ua Phloinn*, the now obliterated crannoge near Desertmartin, gave the name of Loch *Inip Ua Phloinn*, first, to the small lake it existed on, and then, in the form of *Loughinsholin*, to one of the largest baronies in Ulster.†

The Green Lough was drained some years ago by the father of Hugh MacLoughlin, the present tenant. Previously to that it was a sheet of water, about half a mile in circumference, and used to receive the surplus water of the Black Lough; but, by means of a deep cut, its contents were carried into the Clady River, and it was completely drained. About the middle, in the position shown on the Ordnance map, was a circular eminence artificially formed of clay and gravel, the edge of which sloped down to the water. Inside this marginal embankment was a circle of oak piles, most of which still remain, about seven perches in circumference. In the upper ends were mortised horizontal beams of oak, and upon this framework, as a foundation, rested a wooden house, which was securely connected with the supporting timbers. Such was the edifice which tradition describes as the residence of Brian Carrach O'Neill. The approach was from the western margin of the lough, where an artificial causeway was formed, which came within a short distance of the island. I expected to hear of many articles of antiquity being found during the process of draining, but the only one which was remembered was a piece of iron chain-mail. At present, owing to neglect of the drain, the basin containing the island has been to some extent again submerged, so that, on the 18th of October last, an effort which I made to reach the island failed, as I sank above the knees before I had taken many steps. However, the island, though considerably impaired in outline, still remains prominent and green, and produces a cock of hay every year. The apple-trees which are growing on the top were planted there a few years ago.

The road to Tamlaght skirts the Green Lough on the south, and on

* As distinguished from the larger sheet of water called the *Black Lough*, which lies a little to the north-west, but which has no island.—Ordnance Survey of Londonderry, sheet 33.

In the fourth Ulster map in the Trin. Coll. collection, *Brian Caroth* is placed on the Antrim side; but on the Derry side of his territory, south of the *Slut Donogh*, is the mark of a very small lake, with a diminutive island, no doubt intended for the one in question. Speed, Jansson, and Blaeu, mark the Clady River, which they call the *Skinne ftu.*, and on the north side of it they correctly place the little lake with its island, which they call *Lo. Rush*.

† See my communication in the Proceedings, p. 359, *supra*.

the other side of it rises one of the escars which abound in the parish. The highest part of this is called the *Gallows Hill*, and the marks of three graves are shown near the spot where the gallows stood. They are said to contain the remains of three warriors slain by Brian Carrach. Living, as this chieftain did, in a district which was wrested from a rival tribe, his life was naturally marked by vigilance, and his acts by decision and severity. The inaccessible nature of his territory enabled him to bid defiance to the English, but the emissaries of the O'Cahans were ever ready to take advantage of his difficulties; and tradition says that the two sons whom he left were assassinated by the Logans and Mac Shanes at a christening party near Skeg-na-holiagh. Certainly the stories which are told of him do not impress the mind with a notion of his gentleness. The following, which was related to Dr. O'Donovan, when in this part of the country in 1834, and was communicated by him to the Ordnance Survey Office,* presents a fair specimen of the local estimate for this chief's memory:—"Many stories are related of Brian Carrach O'Neill, who encroached upon O'Kane, and possessed the south-east portion of the county. Brian would never hang one man alone, and if he found a man guilty of swinging by his law, he would give him a long day, until he could find another to dance along with him. One time he found a man guilty, and a long time passed over, but no companion could be found for him. At last a stranger came to visit the friars of a monastery within the territory, and Brian, riding out one day, viewed him, and they allow that he sent word to the abbot, requesting of him to *lend* him that man, and that he would send him one in return as soon as possible. The abbot, fearing to disobey, sent him the man, and Brian caused him to be hanged along with the convict. Soon after this, he found two others guilty, one of whom attracted his notice as being remarkably comely. Brian spoke to him, saying, 'I shall forgive you if you will marry a daughter that I have.' 'Let's see her,' says the convict. Brian sends for the daughter; but as soon as the comely youth beheld her, he cried out, *Suap liom, puap liom*: 'Up with me, up with me.' 'By the powers,' says Brian, 'I will not up with you, but she must go up.' Upon which he hanged his own daughter for her ugliness, and gave the comely youth up to the abbot, in payment of the man he had borrowed from him to make up the even number."†

The monastery above mentioned was, probably, the small friary which tradition reports to have existed in the little village of Tamlaght, about two miles distant, on the north-west.

The REV. SAMUEL HAUGHTON stated his views respecting the tidal currents in the Arctic Archipelago. In his opinion the Atlantic and

* Londonderry Letters, dated Newtownlimavady, August 16, 1834.

† A story very similar is recorded by Dr. Fitzgerald, in Mason's "Parochial Survey," of Henry Avrey O'Neill, whose castle was in the parish of Ardstraw.—Vol. i., p. 116. The Ardstraw youth said, *Cur suas me, cur suas me*.